FREE public lectures of the New York Botanical Garden are being delivered in the Lecture Hall of the Museum Building of the Garden, Bronx Park, on Saturday afternoons, at four o'clock, as follows:

September 1. "Collecting fungi in the Catskills," by Dr. W. A. Murrill.

September 8. "The origin and history of soils," by Dr. A. Hollick.

September 15. "Growing fresh vegetables in the back yard," by Mr. H. G. Parsons.

September 22. "Some botanical features of northern Cape Breton," by Dr. G. E. Nichols.

(Exhibition of Dahlias, September 22 and 23)

September 29. "Growing nut trees," by Dr. W. C. Deming.

October 6. "Autumn coloration," by Dr. A. B. Stout.

October 13. "The relation of forests to water supply," by Dr. G. C. Fisher.

(Catskill Aqueduct Celebration Lecture)

October 20. "Fall planting and winter protection," by Mr. G. V. Nash.

THE Paris Academy of Sciences has decided to establish a National Physical and Mechanical Laboratory for the purpose of scientific research, directed in a marked degree to the benefit and use of the industries. The laboratory will be controlled by a council, of which half the members will be nominated by the academy, one fourth by the state department, and the remainder by the chief industrial associations. The executive control will be in the hands of a small technical committee. Existing laboratories engaged in similar work will be affiliated with the National Laboratory, and will work in close relationship with it. Substantial funds are to be provided for working expenses and for the assistance of the affiliated institutions.

AT the request of the government, the council of the British Medical Association has submitted the following plan for the creation of the Ministry of Health: "That a ministry of health should be created to take over from existing government departments such duties as are concerned with the health of the community, and to deal with those duties only; that the administrative functions of the ministry should be carried out by a board presided over by a minister of cabinet rank; that the country be divided into suitable administrative areas under local administrative health centers consisting of representatives (*a*) of the rating authorities; (*b*) of the education authorities; (*c*) of the persons contributing to a scheme of health insurance (including employers of labor); (*d*) the medical profession; (*e*) public hospitals; (*f*) dentists; (*g*) pharmacists, and (*h*) nurses; that the principal medical officers of each center should be two, of equal status, one representing the clinical side (chief clinical officer) and the other the preventive side of medicine (medical officer of health); that for each area, hospitals, clinics or treatment centers should be recognized or established at which persons entitled to treatment under the public scheme should be able to obtain institutional, consultative or specialist services on the recommendation of their medical attendant." The meeting passed a resolution by an overwhelming majority in favor of the appointment of a ministry of health.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

BROWN UNIVERSITY receives $100,000 for a teachers' fund and $4,000 for the purchase of volumes of American poetry by the will of the late Samuel C. Eastman, of Concord, N. H. The Concord Public Library is given $2,000, the New Hampshire Historical Society $4,000, and $3,000 will go to charity. One half the residue of the estate is willed to Brown University, one fourth to the Concord Public Library, and one fourth to the New Hampshire Historical Society.

THE University of Maine and Bates and Colby Colleges have postponed their opening for about a month to allow students to continue their work on farms and in industries.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM A. SCHAPER, of the department of political science of the University of Minnesota, has been dismissed, following an investigation of the attitude on the war of

members of the faculty. Professor Schaper denies that he has been disloyal.

Dr. William Allen Neilson, professor of English at Harvard University, has been elected president of Smith College. He succeeds Dr. Marion L. Burton, who has become president of the University of Minnesota.

James C. Nagle has been appointed dean of engineering and professor of civil engineering in the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, succeeding D. W. Spence whose death occurred in June.

Professor W. S. Franklin, formerly of Lehigh University, has accepted a position as special lecturer and teacher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, partly in the department of physics and partly in the department of electrical engineering. Professor Franklin requests his correspondents to note his new address.

Dr. C. H. Shattuck, for the past eight years head of the department of forestry, University of Idaho, has accepted the position as professor of forestry with the University of California.

Dr. Wright A. Gardner, formerly associate professor of plant physiology in the University of Idaho, has been appointed professor of plant physiology and head of the department of botany in the Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

Dr. Alfred H. W. Povah, formerly instructor in botany in the University of Michigan, has been appointed special lecturer in forest mycology in The New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University.

Mr. Ralph Hubbard, formerly of Cornell University, has been appointed assistant in the museum and zoological department of the University of Colorado.

Mr. Samuel Wood Geiser, formerly professor of biology and geology in Guilford College, has been appointed professor of biology in Upper Iowa University.

At the University of Oregon, Charles H. Edmondson, Ph.D. (Iowa, '06), assistant professor of zoology, and Albert E. Caswell, Ph.D., (Stanford, '11), assistant professor of physics, have been promoted to full professorships, and Raymond H. Wheeler, Ph.D. (Clark, '15), instructor in psychology, has been made an assistant professor. During the present summer Dr. Edmondson has been studying the clams of the North Pacific Coast with a view to their conservation for food purposes.

Dr. Lloyd Balderston, of Ridgway, Pa., has been appointed professor of leather chemistry and technology in the college of agriculture of the Tohoku Imperial University, at Sapporo, Japan.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

ON THE "RAWNESS" OF SUBSOILS

In the interest of accuracy the writer feels impelled to call the attention of investigators of soils to some facts with reference to the infertility of subsoils which do not seem to be generally appreciated. This statement is called forth at this time by the recent paper of Alway, McDole and Rost[1]; the observations upon which it is based are of long standing but have not been described because of matters of greater importance which have intervened to prevent such description. The authors just cited call attention to the characteristic sterility of subsoils of humid regions with which every student of soils is of course familiar. No one can deny that fact. They go on, however, to cite Hilgard, and Wohltmann who had visited California, to the effect that subsoils of arid regions are not sterile, but serve just as well or better than surface soils in that region for the support of plant life whether the latter be of legume or non-legume order.

Neither Hilgard's nor Wohltmann's observations are in full accord with mine except in certain cases which I shall refer to below. In studying the soil conditions of the Great Valley of California and particularly those of the citrus and alfalfa growing districts, I have repeatedly observed the vegetation, natural or planted, which is to be found on the freshly graded fields. Grading is done, of

[1] *Soil Science*, Vol. 3, p. 9, January, 1917.